

GAMBIT**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON**

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

9 NOV 1965

**MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE****SUBJECT: GAMBIT Program Status**

As a result of the work to determine and correct the causes of the GAMBIT failures during the past summer, although we believe that we have identified and corrected the specific causes of the recent failures in the system, we have established a program to inspect, rework, and retest the mission critical components of the satellite vehicles to insure their flight suitability and reliability. For the vehicles scheduled for launch in November, December, and January this is being done on a selective basis; for later vehicles all mission critical components will be completely revalidated under new quality control procedures.

In addition, in order to assure a high degree of confidence of mission success, a thermal vacuum (orbital simulation) and vibration test is planned for the complete satellite vehicle less payload. In spite of the complete success of the most recent GAMBIT mission, our analysis has convinced us that these steps are necessary to insure a continuing satisfactory level of mission success. A minimum test is scheduled for the December vehicle and a complete test for all subsequent vehicles.

The launch schedule has been revised to accommodate the time required to accomplish these actions. Missions are now scheduled for November 8, December 14, January 14, and February 8. Five additional missions are available to meet requirements in the period March through June 1966.

SIGNED:**Alexander H. Flax
Director
National Reconnaissance Office****GAMBIT****EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DEGRADING;
DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY****~~TOP SECRET~~**

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